

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-66, and 68-131 are pending in this application.

Applicants have amended claims 18-24, 54, and 74 in order to more particularly define the invention. The amendments were not necessitated by the claim rejections. Applicants make no admission as to the patentability or unpatentability of the originally filed claims.

In the Office Action mailed on December 15, 2005, the Examiner rejected all pending claims under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grefenstette et al. in view of Brady. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On January 17, 2006, the Examiner and Applicants' representative Amir H. Raubvogel conducted a telephonic interview. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, except for claims 18-25, 54, and 74-77. Agreement was reached that the case would be in condition for allowance if claims 18-25, 54, and 74-77 are either cancelled or made dependent on allowable claims. The Examiner mailed an Interview Summary following the interview, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Applicants have amended claims 18-25, 54, and 74-77 to depend from allowable claims. Specifically, claims 18-25 and 54 now depend from claim 1, and are therefore by definition narrower than claim 1. Claims 74-77 now depend from claim 62, and are therefore by definition narrower than claim 62.

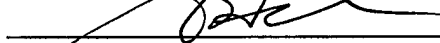
In view of the above amendments and remarks, and as per the agreement reached during the telephonic interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention claimed herein is patentably distinct from the cited references, taken alone or in any combination.

Accordingly, consideration of this application and the early allowance of all claims herein are requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the above amendments and remarks, or if the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with Applicants' representative would help to advance the prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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